

MINUTES
WILLIAMSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
May 11, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Present: Jane B. Allen, Chairman, Richard C. Steege, David A. Rempell, Ronald Turbin

Absent: Tom Costley

Others Present: Eric Reinhard, John Chapman, Michael Meehan, Jeanette Kopczynski, Lucinda Edmonds, Charles Bonenti, Steve Pagnotta, Peter Fohlin, Kathy Poirot

1. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING STATEMENT:** Ms. Allen reminded residents to vote at the polls on Election Day, May 12. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. She added that even though there are no contests, voters should still go vote to acknowledge and thank the candidates. She also reminded residents that Town Meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 19.
2. **SELECTMEN'S MINUTES:** April 27, 2009, Executive Session April 27, 2009 – Mr. Turbin moved to approve the April 27, 2009 regular minutes. Mr. Rempell seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Rempell moved to approve the April 27, 2009 Executive Session minutes. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.
3. **PETITIONER'S REQUEST:** None
4. **LICENSES & PERMITS:**

A. Request from the President & Trustees of Williams College for One Day Liquor Licenses, Robert Volpi, Manager: Mr. Rempell moved to approve both requests for one day liquor licenses as presented below. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

1. All Alcoholic Beverage License on Wednesday, June 3, 2009 from 5:30-11:30 pm for a Senior Dinner Dance at Mt. Hope Farm under the Tent.
2. Wine and Malt Beverage License on Saturday, June 6, 2009 from 9 pm to 12 midnight for Lighnight at Paresky; First Floor and on Chapin Lawn near Paresky.

5. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. 7:05 p.m. Public Hearing for a Request for an Alteration of Premises, Extend Outside Service on a Deck, from Water Street Ventures, d/b/a Water Street Grill, 123 Water Street, Eric Reinhard, Owner.

Chairman Allen moved to open the public hearing at 7:05 p.m. Mr. Reinhard asked the Board to approve his request to extend alcoholic beverage service to the deck off of the tavern area of the restaurant. He requested approval of six tables with 24 chairs until 9 p.m. He said there would not be music on the deck. Neighbors John Chapman and Michael Meehan expressed concerns. They expressed agreement with a letter sent by John Umlauf to stop outside service at 9 pm and that no outside music be played and there be no additional outside lighting. Mr. Reinhard agreed to the conditions. Mr. Rempell moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion

carried unanimously. Mr. Rempell moved to approve the request for an alteration of premises to extend outside liquor service on a deck from Water Street Ventures, d/b/a Water Street Grill, 123 Water Street, Eric Reinhard, Owner, with conditions of six tables, 24 chairs, until 9 p.m. with no music played out on the deck. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. ITEMS FOR SELECTMEN'S CONSIDERATION:

A. Church Corners LLC Update – Affordable Housing Chairman Charles Bonenti included in the selectmen packets a list of questions and answers that he compiled based on a neighborhood meeting facilitated by Church Corners, LLC. He said the questions and answers sheets will be available and plans for the proposed housing project at the former St. Raphael's Church will be provided at the Town Meeting. Stephen Pagnotta, President of the non-profit citizen's group managing the project, Church Corner LLC said they still don't have a purchase and sale agreement with the Springfield Diocese until further funding for the project is assured by a vote at the Town Meeting. He said once funding is obtained then the LLC can move forward with developers and obtain permits. He said that they expect to receive two proposals this week. Church Corners is asking Town Meeting for \$400,000 in Community Preservation Act funds.

B. Berkshire Bikeway Joint Planning Resolution – Mr. Steege read aloud the resolution endorsing the proposed 75-mile Berkshire Bikeway stretching from Williamstown to Sheffield (eleven communities in all). The Resolution also states that Williamstown agrees to participate in discussions with the eleven communities through which it will run and collaborate with those communities in a joint application for bike path funding. Mr. Rempell moved to accept and authorize the Chairman to sign the Berkshire Bikeway Joint Planning Resolution. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Town Manager Contract Extension – Mr. Rempell moved to enthusiastically sign a contract extension for Town Manager Peter Fohlin. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Ms. Allen added that the Board takes great pride and care in their annual evaluation of the town manager and that the Board regards Mr. Fohlin in all areas quite highly.

D. Water & Sewer Warrant – Mr. Rempell moved to approve the water and sewer warrant in the amount of \$123,255.11. Mr. Turbin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

7. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: See attached.

8. OTHER BUSINESS: The Board presented Mr. Steege, whose three-year term will expire after the May 19th Town Meeting, with a diploma, signed by Ms. Allen, commending his service and a framed picture of the 2008 Board of Selectmen. Mr. Steege said he enjoyed his three years on the Board and commented that it has been very rare to be on a board where everyone gets along. He said it was a learning experience at each meeting and he wished more people had the opportunity to experience this. Mr. Turbin and Mr. Rempell said it was a privilege and a joy working with him.

Ms. Allen announced the Cable Television Advisory Committee is in the process of

starting negotiations with Time Warner and they have set a public hearing for comments on Wednesday, May 27 at 7 p.m. She urged residents with concerns and comments to attend or send their correspondence to cabletv@williamstown.net.

Mr. Steege said he would like to stay on the COOL Committee but a selectman representative should volunteer to serve starting at the end of May. He thanked the Costley's for the COOL Neighborhood gathering and he hopes that other neighborhoods will do the same. Mr. Steege said he felt stronger signage is needed for the Idle-free Campaign and there may be a COOL Committee drive toward using clothes-lines rather than dryers.

Ms. Allen announced that Friday, May 15, from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m., a community forum on Choices and Priorities will take place in the Selectmen Room. Labor and Workforce Development Secretary Suzanne Bump will speak. For additional locations and a list of speakers, residents can call the Governor's office at 617-725-4025 or visit www.mass.gov/governor/forum.

Ms. Allen reminded selectmen that they are invited to participate in the May 25 Memorial Day Parade, meeting at the American Legion at 9:30 a.m. with step off at 10.

9. ADJOURN: Mr. Rempell moved to adjourn at 8:09 p.m. Mr. Steege seconded and the motion carried unanimously. The next selectmen's meeting is Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald Turbin, Secretary

RT/kp